**Arrears of BSNL**

†1730. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone bills to the tune of crores of rupees are outstanding against some subscribers of BSNL, Ghaziabad;

(b) if so, the amount involved therein; and

(c) whether any steps are being taken by Government for recovery of this balance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) There is no case involving an outstanding amount in crores of rupees against any individual telephone connection. However, the net cumulative (three months old) amount of telephone dues in Ghaziabad is Rs. 21.24 crores, which is only about 3% of the amount billed during the relevant period.

(c) BSNL is taking several steps to realize the outstanding dues. These include disconnection of telephones, issue of registered notices, disconnection of other working telephones of the defaulters, adjustment of deposits, and other administrative and legal action in justified cases.

**Telephone facilities in Lakshadweep Island**

1731. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the tribal and backward villages of Lakshadweep Island have been provided with telephone facilities including STD/ISD/ FAX etc.

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by government in this regard?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. All the ten inhabited tribal and backward villages of Lakshadweep Island have been provided with telephone facilities including STD/ISD/FAX etc.

(b) Location-wise details where telephone facilities are available are as under:-

| Sl. No. | Name of Location |
|---|---|
| 1. | Agathy |
| 2. | Amini |
| 3. | Androth |
| 4. | Bitra |
| 5. | Chetlet |
| 6. | Kadamath |
| 7. | Kalpeni |
| 8. | Kavarathy |
| 9. | Kiltan |
| 10. | Minicoy |

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of (b) above.

**Blocking of WLL calls**

1732. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cellular Mobile Service Providers (CMSPs) have justified to Government for their action of blocking WLL calls during January-March, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the CMSPs have also urged Government to withdraw criminal proceedings against them in lieu of restoring WLL calls and if so, Government's reaction thereto?